

South Atlantic
Frequently Asked Questions
Regulations for Red Snapper in the South Atlantic
Amendment 28 and the 2013 Fishing Season
July 2013

The following are Frequently Asked Questions for the August 2013 opening of red snapper in the South Atlantic and the final rule for Amendment 28 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic.

August 2013 Red Snapper Opening

Will red snapper harvest be allowed in 2013?

- Yes, there will be limited commercial and recreational fishing seasons for red snapper in 2013.

When will the limited red snapper seasons be in 2013?

- The **commercial** red snapper season opens at 12:01 a.m., local time, on August 26, 2013. The commercial season will end when the annual catch limit is projected to be met; NOAA Fisheries will announce the closure in a Fishery Bulletin.
- The **recreational** red snapper season opens at 12:01 a.m., local time, on August 23, 2013, and closes at 12:01 a.m., local time, on August 26, 2013.

Is it possible the red snapper fishing season dates will change if severe weather conditions occur?

- NOAA Fisheries may change the commercial and recreational season dates if severe weather conditions exist during the currently scheduled seasons.
- If severe weather conditions exist, NOAA Fisheries will file a notification to that effect with the Office of the Federal Register, and announce via NOAA Weather Radio and a Fishery Bulletin any change in the red snapper fishing seasons.

What are the regulations for the commercial sector in 2013?

- Elimination of the current 20 inch minimum size limit during the fishing season.
- Commercial trip limit of 75 pounds gutted weight.

What are the regulations for the recreational sector in 2013?

- Elimination of the current 20 inch minimum size limit during the fishing season.
- A recreational bag limit of one fish per person per day.

What are the regulations after the South Atlantic red snapper fishing seasons end?

- After the fishing seasons, red snapper may not be harvested or possessed in federal waters of the South Atlantic and in state waters for vessels holding federal snapper-grouper permits.

Amendment 28

What do the actions in Amendment 28 establish?

- *A process* to determine if a fishing season will occur each year, the allowable harvest, and the season lengths for the commercial and recreational sectors.
- *An equation* to determine the annual catch limit amount for each sector.
- *Management measures* if fishing is allowed.

What is the annual process to determine if fishing seasons may occur in the future?

- Harvest is allowed when the previous year's mortality level is less than the previous year's acceptable biological catch, and when the projections for the fishing season is greater than three days.
- NMFS would announce in the *Federal Register* the annual catch limit as computed by the formula developed in Amendment 28.

If there is a fishing season in future years, what would the regulations be for the commercial sector?

- Elimination of the current 20 inch minimum size limit during the fishing season.
- Commercial trip limit of 75 pounds gutted weight.

If there is a fishing season in future years, what would the regulations be for the recreational sector?

- Elimination of the current 20 inch minimum size limit during the fishing season.
- A recreational bag limit of one fish per person per day.

Where can I find more information on Amendment 28 and the 2013 fishing season?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office

By Mail: Rick DeVictor
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
By FAX: (727) 824-5308
By Phone: (727) 824-5305

- Amendment 28 may be found online at the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office Web site at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2013/am28/index.html.